

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) A flywheel in which a central part of a ~~thin~~ plate portion having a flywheel mass provided on an outer peripheral side of the plate portion is joined to an end surface of a crankshaft through a plurality of bolts disposed annularly at intervals, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, within a contact zone of a ~~substantially~~ polygon defined by linking each center of the bolts with straight lines excluding the bearing surfaces of the bolts, the plate portion has a non-contacting part set not to contact with the end surface of the crankshaft, the non-contact part is formed in a hollow fashion in a central portion of a surface of the plate portion, which surface contacts the end surface of the crankshaft, and the area of the non-contacting part is set to be 40% to 75% of the whole area of the contact zone.

2. (currently amended) A flywheel in which a central part of a ~~thin~~ plate portion having a flywheel mass provided on an outer peripheral side of the plate portion is clamped between a reinforcement and an end surface of a crank shaft and is joined thereto through a plurality of bolts disposed annularly at intervals, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, within a contact zone of a ~~substantially~~ polygon defined by linking each center of the bolts with straight lines excluding the bearing surfaces of the bolts, the reinforcement has a non-contacting part set not to contact with the plate portion, the non-contact part is formed in a hollow fashion in a central portion of a surface of the reinforcement, which surface contacts the plate portion, and the area of the non-contacting part is set to be 40% to 75% of the whole area of the contact zone.

3. (currently amended) A flywheel as defined in claim 2, wherein the plate portion is provided with a non-contacting part that does not contact with the end surface of the crankshaft, and the non-contact portion is formed in a hollow fashion in a central portion of a surface of the plate portion, which surface contacts the end surface of the crankshaft.

4. (new) A flywheel as defined in claim 1, wherein a central hole is formed in a center portion of the plate portion.

5. (new) A flywheel as defined in claim 2, wherein a central hole is formed in a center portion of the plate portion.

6. (new) A flywheel as defined in claim 4, wherein the crankshaft has a cylindrical projection on the central portion of the end surface of the crankshaft, and the central hole of the plate portion is formed to be fitted with the cylindrical projection.

7. (new) A flywheel as defined in claim 5, wherein the crankshaft has a cylindrical projection on the central portion of the end surface of the crankshaft, and the central hole of the plate portion is formed to be fitted with the cylindrical projection.